

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:VSS
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
C:RHOPPER

-----081446 221518Z /40

R 220258Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY

SUBJECT: CLIFFORD MEETING WITH MICHAELIDES

1. CYPRUS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT MICHAELIDES
MET WITH PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN CLARK CLIFFORD MARCH 17. ALSO PRESENT WERE
CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU AND EUR/SE DIRECTOR EWING.

2. MICHAELIDES SAID THAT KYPRIANOU AND OTHER GOC LEADERS
WERE CONCERNED THAT CYPRUS SITUATION HAD NOT IMPROVED.
THEY REMAINED FRANKLY SKEPTICAL OF TURKISH INTENTIONS AND
THOUGHT A SOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE IF THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL
CHANGE IN TURKISH ATTITUDE CONCERNING CYPRUS. MICHAELIDES
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ASKED FOR CLIFFORD'S EVALUATION OF PRESENT SITUATION AND
PROSPECTS.

3. CLIFFORD REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS OVER PAST YEAR AND SUM-
MARIZED HIS CURRENT ATTITUDE AS FOLLOWS: (A) HE HAS THE
STRONGEST FEELING AND GREATEST CONCERN ABOUT THE CYPRUS
PROBLEM AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT;

(B) HE PERSONALLY FAVORS IMPLEMENTATION OF DCA'S WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY; AND (C) SETTLEMENT OF GREEK/TURKISH DIFFERENCES WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ALLIANCE AND FOR STABILITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. CLIFFORD SAID THAT THE

PRESIDENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING DECISIONS CONCERNING THE AREA AND WOULD TAKE ALL FACTORS INTO CONSIDERATION. HIS PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE TO GO AHEAD AND ASK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE TURKISH DCA. WHILE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WAS PROCEEDING, TURKEY COULD TAKE STEPS WITH REFERENCE TO CYPRUS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO REAL PROGRESS.

4. MICHAELIDES SAID HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH CLIFFORD ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A STRONGER NATO, BUT FELT THAT CYPRUS WAS THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT THE US SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO GIVE CONCESSIONS TO TURKEY FIRST AND THEN SOMEHOW EXPECT PERFORMANCE LATER.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, CLIFFORD SAID THAT HE CONTINUED TO FOLLOW EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS AND AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THE AREA. IN CLOSING, HE STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO DIMINUTION OF HIS INTEREST OR THAT OF THE USG IN FINDING A SOLUTION FOR CYPRUS WHICH WOULD BE FAIR, LASTING AND SATISFACTORY. VANCE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE073419
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCEWING:VSS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0448
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780336/aaaabenn.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7581fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3236635
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLIFFORD MEETING WITH MICHAELIDES
TAGS: PGOV, CY, GR, (MICHAELIDES, ALECOS), (CLIFFORD, CLARK)
To: NICOSIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7581fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014